[*English*]

National Passenger Road Finance Transpoort Corporation

4840. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a National Passenger Road Finance Transport Corporation is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to amend the Road Transport Corporation Act; and

(d) if so, the purpose of the Amendment?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government is considering to establish National Road Transport Development Finance Corporation which will provide loan assistance to State Road Transport Undertakings. At this stage no firm indications are available as to the actual status of the National Road Transport Development Finance Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main purpose of the proposed amendment is to bring about more functional autonomy to SRTUs and to enable these Corporations to act on business principle in such manner as to ensure the minimum rate of return of 3% on the Capital invested.

Labourers in Ordnance Factories

4841. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of idle labourers now being maintained by each of the Ordnance Factories;

(b) whether Ordnance Factories by and large are placing their orders, either for complete items of production, or in part from trade and private organisations, instead of getting them manufactured at their own factories or inter-factories;

(c) whether consequently, the idle labourers have been on the rise; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) There is no idle labour in Ordnance Factories.

(b) Complete items of production are not purchased from trade and private organisations. A few components and sub-assemblies for which capacities are either not created or not available in the ordnance factories are ordered on the trade.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Bhagirath Magazine

4842. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Parliamentary sub-committee had made some recommendations about "Bhagirath" magazine some time back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations implemented and those which have not been implemented so far;

(d) the reasons for not implementing of all the recommendations; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement all the recommendations without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) Parliamentary sub committee had not made any recommendation about Bhagirath magazine. However, one assurance was given to Parliamentary sub-committee on Official Languages in February, 1992 that the same number of copies of Bhagirath (Hindi) and Bhagirath (English) would be printed.

2300 copies of Bhagirath (English) and 2100 copies of Bhagirath (Hindi) are being printed at present. The number of paid subscribers of Bhagirath (English) is 35 and that of Bhagirath (Hindi) is 44 at present.

(e) Henceforth, the same number of copies of Bhagirath (English) and Bhagirath (Hindi) would be printed irrespective of the number of paid subscribers.

Shortage of Anti-Rabies Medicines

4843. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of anti-rabies medicines in the Primary Health Centres in rural areas;

(b) whether the medicines available in the Primary Health Centres are of expired dates;

(c) whether the poor people die, because this medicine is neither available in the Primary Health Centres, nor these people can afford to purchase it from the market as it is too costly;

(d) whether the Government have taken any step for adequate supply of these medicines in the Primary Health Centres; and